

Jan-Dec 1891

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no. 4 waiting

NOV 20 1891



Entered at the Post Office at Brooklyn, N. Y., as second-class matter.

Vol. IV.
No. 1.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., JANUARY, 1891.

Subscription Price,
25 Cents Per Year.

WITH this number our little bulletin enters upon its fourth year. During the three years it has been published marvelous changes have taken place in Brazil. By an almost bloodless revolution the Empire has been overturned and a Republic firmly established. The new government has decreed a complete separation from the Roman church, and that action has been ratified by the nation. The encouragements to missionary activity were never so great as now. A new mission, that of the Episcopal church, has been commenced and the older missions have been largely reinforced. The fact that there are missionaries now working successfully in Brazil whose interest in this promising field was awakened by BRAZILIAN MISSIONS is a sufficient reward for all it has cost and ample warrant for its continuance. We are very grateful for the kind words of encouragement which come to us from so many quarters. And now we venture to ask that those whose interest in the Brazilian work has been deepened by this periodical will do what they can to extend its circulation. By a slight effort we believe that the number of our readers could be doubled at once.

WE are now sending copies of BRAZILIAN MISSIONS gratuitously to the reading

rooms of many theological seminaries and colleges. This has been the means of directing the minds of some students to Brazil as their field of future labor. We hope to continue this and greatly to enlarge our list. If any of our friends desire to aid in this, their contributions will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

REV. WM. M. THOMPSON and Mrs. Thompson sailed for Brazil in November on the *Alliança*. Mr. Thompson goes to Maranhão as colleague to Dr. Butler. Rev. J. J. Horrell, M. D., and wife sailed on the *Finance* in December. They go to the Ceara Station. Miss Clara E. Hough, of Media, Pa., sailed December 13th on the *Vigilancia*. She will teach in the school at São Paulo.

REV. W. B. BAGBY makes a very earnest appeal to the Southern Baptist Church, through the *Foreign Mission Journal*, for aid in securing a church building in Rio. The church numbers about fifty communicants, and at present worships in rooms unfavorably located. They propose securing a lot at a cost of \$10,000, and erecting a chapel on part of it costing \$5,000 or \$6,000.

ENCOURAGING reports come from the missionaries of the Episcopal Church, Messrs. Morris and Kinsolving. Their field is in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, a city of 60,000 people. They are assisted by two catechists, Sr. Boaventura and Sr. Vicente Brande. They are preaching at five points in the city to crowded houses and have every prospect of great success.

WE very heartily commend to our readers the *Missionary Echo*, a bright monthly published at 50 cents per year, or 25 cents a year in clubs of eight, at Toronto, Canada. The *Echo* is not connected with any society or special field, but presents a pithy and attractive summary of missionary news from all parts of the world. It is a hopeful sign that there is an increasing demand for such periodicals. By arrangement with the publisher of this paper we are able to offer it to our subscribers at the club rate. Anyone sending us 50 cents will receive both BRAZILIAN MISSIONS and the *Missionary Echo* for one year.

THE PRESBYTERY of São Paulo met in Botucatu on the 29th of November. The meeting was a harmonious and profitable one. The growth of the churches during the year has been very large.

The following is an incomplete report which does not include two important fields:—

	Members added.	Children baptized.	Total membership.	Contributions.
Sao Paulo.....	27	35	216	\$5,414
Parana	24	59
Rio Grande.....	12	14	59	233
Cruzeiro and out stations.	14	6	558
Sorocaba and out stations	38	69	351	1,408
Botucatu.....	92	98	614
Totals	207	281	1,240	\$7,613

TWO BRAZILIAN ships of war have just visited the United States. The Admiral in command and his officers were received with high honor by the President and by naval and diplomatic officers. They were also the recipients of many courtesies from private citizens. The *N. Y. Tribune* takes occasion from the visit to compliment the new Republic in the following terms:—

“Compliments between nations are never wasted. Good feeling was promoted by the cruise of Admiral Walker’s fleet in Southern waters. The exchange of courtesies between the naval services of the two countries is of practical benefit in bringing the Governments into closer and more familiar relations. The flag of the new Republic is one which may be saluted with the highest honor. After a bloodless revolution, untainted with crime, Brazil has passed rapidly and without political disturbance into an era of constitutional development under an enlightened and progressive system. The financial credit of the new Government has remained unimpaired at a time when Argentine securities have been heavily depreciated. Order has been maintained in all the coast cities, and popular elections have been conducted without turmoil or excitement. One of the latest acts of the Provisional Government has been the repeal of the few sentences of banishment passed against partisans of the Imperial order. Every tendency of the first year of Republican Government in Brazil has been at once conservative and progressive. Brilliant results have been accomplished. There is the promise of a great work for civilization under Republican conditions. It is a work which Americans cannot help regarding with a feeling of sympathetic interest.”

THE CONTINENTAL EXPOSITION FOR 1892.

The city of São Paulo has been chosen as the place where the South American Exposition of 1892 is to be held.

The President, Gen. Deodoro and his cabinet, are expected on the 24th, to place

the corner-stone. A beautiful site, overlooking the city, the historic plain of Ypiranga, has been chosen for the buildings, and work will be commenced at once. The great banker, Mayrink, is at the head of the movement and there is every prospect of success.

The selection of São Paulo is in itself an element of success by reason of its healthfulness, its accessibility and the energy and enterprise of its people.

At its present rate of growth São Paulo will soon be the largest, as it is now the most prosperous city in the Republic. The great drawback to the coast cities, the constant fear of an invasion of yellow fever, is absent here. It has stood the severest test that could be applied—for two seasons it has had an epidemic on either side and has passed unscathed. Its abundant supply of pure water, its perfect drainage and its daily bath of pure air, a perpetual breeze blowing through its valleys, gives it perfect immunity.

São Paulo is to-day the centre of Brazilian activities, in agriculture, in commerce, and in education, and has a preponderating influence in politics. Therefore no mistake was made in locating the Continental Exposition here.

CIVIL MARRIAGE.

BY REV. J. B. KOLB.

Many things in reference to the great political changes which have been wrought in Brazil during these eventful months have given joy and new courage to Christian hearts; but some things have caused sorrow and forebodings of coming evil. The name of God is not recognized, nor His guiding hand, in the wonderful changes which have come. The newspapers are full of the praises of this one, and that other one, and the leader in the

whole movement is lauded to the skies. Civil marriage has been established. It is a good measure, but it could be bettered. The principal figure in the ceremony is the justice of the peace, who first declares who may and who may not be married; then he directs himself first to the bride, then to groom, asking them if there is any legal hindrance to their marriage; then he asks if they desire to be married of their own free will. Receiving affirmative answers, he asks them to repeat after him the following formula: "I, M——, receive you, H——, for my legitimate husband, during our lifetime." The groom repeats the same formula. After which the "justice of the peace" makes the following declaration: "I, S——, as justice of the peace, do recognize and declare you to be lawfully married."

After which a minute is made in the register of marriages, which the justice of the peace, his secretary, the bride and groom, and witnesses sign. The law now makes provision for the religious side, but see how small a part it is: "The newly-married are counselled to receive the blessing of their respective ministers."

The reader will see that the vows are almost as informal as they can be made. There is no exchange of vows, "as before God and these witnesses." What real sanctity and sense of responsibility can there be in such a ceremony, in which the name of God does not appear?

It seems as if the leaders in the political affairs of Brazil had written upon the portal of this splendid country—Ichabod.

To offset this ungodly ceremony, the Roman Catholic priests, as well as evangelical ministers, celebrate the whole marriage ceremony.

At a late marriage the civil officer performed his part; then the minister stepped to the front and celebrated the marriage, as before the new law came into effect.

After the religious ceremony, many of those who were present said: "Ah, yes! *now* they are really married. We do not see the value of the civil marriage. No mention of their obligations to God in it."

The civil law should not solemnize the act, it should bear witness to it, by the presence of its representative.

Let it provide a purely civil act for those who are atheists, so that their unions may be legalized. Yet, even this is too much of an accomodation in a State in which the great majority recognize their responsibility to God. Let Christians pray that the young Republic may be led to officially recognize the name and providence of God in its acts.

NORTH BRAZIL.

BY REV. W. C. PORTER.

The mission field of Northern Brazil is, I fear, little known by the Christian public. As a missionary of that field, I will give one reason of such ignorance, due, in part at least, to the missionary, and then give some account of our work.

Brazil, I am thankful to say, is now receiving more attention from the Churches and Boards. But for long years that vast field has had so few men at work, and the missionaries were so overtaxed that they had not a spare moment to give to writing for the press. During the years spent there I have often wished I could get a little time to collect my thoughts, and report what the Lord is doing for us. But when the cry: "Come and preach to us," is heard all around us, it is very difficult to take time for anything else.

Such, I believe, is the reason that missionaries have not reported their work through the Christian press.

The mission of North Brazil has three

central stations—Pernambuco, Ceara and Maranhão.

The field is a vast one, extending from the S. Francisco River on the South, to the Amazon, on the North. I will, therefore, speak especially of Pernambuco, where I work, of its characteristics, development and needs.

Pernambuco proper, or Recife, the local name, is a city of one hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants. It is the most easterly point of the two Americas, Cape St. Roque not excepted. We in Pernambuco see the sun rise before any one else in the New World. The fact that it is the first land approached in coming from Europe has made it an important commercial centre, the next in that respect to Rio de Janeiro. Merchants carry on direct trade with Europe and the United States. Pernambuco does for North Brazil, to a large extent, what Rio does for South Brazil. The States of Rio Grande do Norte, Parahyba and Alagoos are supplied almost entirely through the port of Pernambuco, while the back country of Bahia, Ceara and Piahy have dealings with Pernambuco houses. Just as Santos and Rio are the centres of the coffee interests in Brazil, Pernambuco is the great sugar mart, being in the midst of the richest cane growing country. Cotton, too, is an increasing source of revenue, while more than a million and a half of goat skins are exported every year. Several American firms deal exclusively in that article. What of the climate and health in North Brazil? Unfortunately Pernambuco has a bad reputation in these respects, which she hardly deserves. I know Scotch, English, American, German and French who have gone there and lived to see their grandchildren grow up. I myself staid there six years, and was stronger the day I took steamer for the States than when I landed there. Pernambuco *is not unhealthy*. We are

entirely free from yellow fever as an epidemic, which plays such havoc in Rio, Santos and Campinas. Other fevers, as typhoid and intermittent, while there are cases, are not prevalent because of the mildness of the climate. Scarlet fever, diphtheria and croup are unknown. Why, some one may ask, do missionaries break down in that climate and have to come home to build up? My answer is that the men are kept for long years at their posts, with more work than they can carry on, and when the break comes it is all attributed to the climate. Do not men return from that beautiful garden spot, Japan? Does not China with its temperate regions have to send its men home from time to time? A Brazilian missionary often meets at the Mission Rooms a brother worker from Japan, or China, or India. Do not overworked Home pastors also often take a rest from their labors? The only difference is that at Home some one can be found to supply the pulpit for a short time, while the foreign missionary has to go on till his cry is answered from across the waters, or till his strength gives way.

Pernambuco has already in operation three railroads running far into the southern, central and northern parts of the State, besides the steamers that run between the ports of the different States. The government has now under construction lines to connect by rail Rio Grande, Parahyba, Pernambuco and Alagoos.

What of the people; their education and religion?

Foreigners from everywhere are always struck with the open-hearted hospitality of the Brazilians, who are naturally kind and peaceable. The Jesuitical rule of more than three hundred years has kept them in intellectual and moral degradation. The Romish church is diametrically opposed to education, for it is only by keeping the people in the grossest ignor-

ance that she can enslave the human soul with her infamous superstitions and idolatry. When I speak of Catholicism I mean that in countries where it has been supreme, and not the modified form of it in England and the United States, where public opinion obliges Rome to admit the Bible.

Brazil, with its fourteen millions, is far behind the world in education because of priestly influence. Statistics, which are however very inaccurate, report that about four-fifths of the people cannot read. The priesthood, itself a most corrupt body, has not taught morality to the people; and in their blindness and ignorance they have followed their priests. But there is always a time of reaction, and the people, in spite of their tyrannical Jesuit guides, have been touched with the bright spark of the Gospel, and, now awake, are seeking for light and life. They have risen and put down the monarchy and thrown off the State church. Now, as never before, is the time for God's people to go in and take possession, before infidelity, as in France, takes hold of the people. They are as sheep without a shepherd, and will follow the first that calls them.

But to return to our own field. Within the last year the whole public sentiment has changed toward the Gospel work. Formerly there were many places to which we could gain no admittance; now there are calls from every direction to go and preach. At Pernambuco, Goyannaz, Maceio and Pão de Assucar, on the S. Francisco River, we have men stationed, two foreigners and four natives. In my own field of Pernambuco I visited in the last eighteen months Agua Preta, Nazareth and Prazeres, towns and villages on the railroads. At all these places I had large audiences, and the people begged me to come again to preach to them. At Agua Preta they rented a hall for six months, hoping I would go to preach to

them. A stranger stopped me one day on the street and asked: "When are you going again to preach at Agua Preta? I heard you, and we want you to come again." At Nazareth, in former years, our people were stoned. But they have persevered under the guidance of a poor blacksmith, and two months ago I preached there to a crowd that filled the house, kitchen, yard and street. Not one word of opposition was heard during my three day's stay. I baptized on that occasion the mother of a large family. This woman, nearly six years ago, received and fed us in São Lourenço at the time we were stoned and beaten with clubs. But the two families that heard me on that occasion, in spite of hardships and persecutions, have stood fast. After six years of silence eight persons in São Lourenço have asked for baptism. "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days."

There are many other places, as Palmares, Rio Formozo and Pau de Alho, waiting for the Gospel message; but why count them when there are so many? It will be seen that in the past there has been persecution. But things are now changing fast. The Republican government has decreed religious equality for all creeds, and has withdrawn entirely its official and pecuniary support of the Romish church. In consequence, the people are beginning to see that there is something besides the corrupt Paganism that Rome has traded to them as merchandise for centuries. The Civil Marriage law has broken the power of the priests, for the people will no longer submit to the impositions of the Confessional.

There is much more of which I could speak, such as their processions, their gross idolatry, as well as individual cases of the working of God's Spirit. But I

have already overreached the limit, and will have to wait till another time.

Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., November, 1890.

RAILROAD BUILDING IN BRAZIL.

For several years past Brazil has had a railroad boom which, though interrupted by the revolution last year, has been renewed with greater vigor than ever. We have been apt to regard Brazil as far behind Argentina in the energy with which she has pushed her commercial development. The fact is, however, that the Brazilians have accomplished far more in the way of railroad building than they have had credit for. The vast difference in the topographical features of Brazil and Argentina accounts largely for the far greater mileage of railroads completed in the Argentine Republic. In the southern and best parts of Brazil a huge wall of mountainous bluffs fronts the sea and covers the larger part of the country, making railroad construction a very costly enterprise. The flat pampas of Argentina, however, present great natural facilities for the inexpensive building of railroads. It is only at the termination of the Argentine railroad systems in the Andes that that republic had to engage in heavy and costly railroad work. But Brazil had to begin her railroads under the most expensive difficulties. Her roads from the sea level to the elevated table-land have cost \$150,000 a mile. Five hundred miles of Argentine lines could be laid down in less time and more cheaply than fifty miles of these early Brazilian railroads. Now, however, Brazil has completed her roads through the coast region, and having made gateways from the sea to the interior, she is constructing thousands of miles of railroads to the north, west and south. It is much in her favor that she has dispensed with the costly aid of London financiers, and is carrying out these great enterprises with the aid of native capital, engineers and contractors. Mr. James W. Wells, who for many years has been prominent in the Brazilian railroad surveys, has

recently supplied some interesting facts with regard to the lines which Brazil is now extending many hundreds of miles into the hitherto almost inaccessible interior. He says the Mogyana Railroad is to be the great central line of the country. It has now entered the State of Govaz, has nearly reached the capital of that State and will be rapidly extended to distant Cuyaba. This town, on the Paraguay, is a thousand miles from Rio de Janeiro, and the trading caravans between the sea and Cuyaba have often been several months on the way. Another great system of lines, 1,600 miles in length, is building from São Paulo to Rio Grande do Sul, along the uplands back of the coast mountain ranges, an enterprise that will place Rio de Janeiro within easy reach of the southern part of the republic. After their hard beginning in railroad building the Brazilians think they are having a very easy time of it to-day, for the table land railroads do not cost over \$25,000 a mile, as against the coast lines' cost of from \$125,000 to \$160,000 per mile. At the rate these and other enterprises are now being carried forward the railway map of Brazil will soon show a very different appearance. Mr. Wells, who is a careful writer and undoubtedly the best English authority on Brazilian matters, believes that this great extension of railroads there is sure to be followed by large immigration, and he looks forward to an era of great progressive prosperity for this republic, nearly as large as our own, the greater part of whose area is still wholly untrodden by civilized man. Of course, the present development is in the southern and central parts, and the vast Amazon regions can hardly share in the impulses that are quickening the more advanced and favored portions. We get a better idea of what Brazil is doing when we recall that this railroad to Cuyaba is to pass within a hundred miles or so of the savage tribes discovered by Dr. Von den Steinen in 1887—tribes who had never heard of white men, who were wholly unacquainted with the use of metals, and were continuing in this century all the conditions of the stone age. The great central railroad of

Brazil is indeed pushing into a virgin world, and will touch regions of which even less is known than of most parts of central Africa. But this inland country in southern and middle Brazil has immense resources, and its railroads are likely to repeat the history of the line between Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, which, though of course it did not pay at first, is now one of the most profitable lines in the world.—*N. Y. Sun.*

NORMAL SCHOOL.

The corner-stone of the New Normal School building was laid a day or two since, amid the blare of trumpets and making of speeches.—nothing is done here without speech making—(everybody goes about *louted* with a *discurso* for any emergency that may arise.)

This corner-stone was laid in the *Praça da Republica*, the site chosen under the old government for the New Cathedral, and the money to be used in erecting the new school building is the product of a lottery voted for the Cathedral! The lottery is a favorite mode of raising money for charitable and political purposes.

Under the old regime, grants were made for bridges, public works, church building and repairs, etc.—not of money, but of so many lotteries. The State always withholding part of the profits, the balance of profits goes to the object in view. In the present case the lottery produced \$100,000, which by decree of provisional governor, was taken from the church and given for the Normal School building.

Brazilian Missions.

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